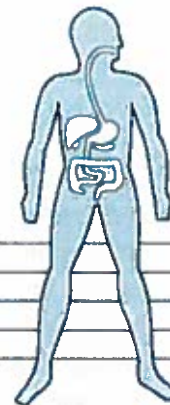


Digestive Disease National Coalition



507 Capitol Court, N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 544-7497 (202) 546-7105 - Fax WWW.DDNC.ORG

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Lynn Seim, MSN, RN, Chairperson
Ralph McKibbin, MD, President
Cathy Griffith, Vice-Chairperson
James Hobbey, MD, Vice President
Kim Foley, Secretary
Jane Holt, Treasurer

Members-at-Large:

Ivonne Fuller-Cameron
Kimberly Beavers, MD
Nancy Ginter
Sarah Buchanan
Samir Shah, MD

Immediate Past-Chairperson:

Andrew Spiegel, Esq.

Immediate Past-President:

Costas Kefalas, MD

Director of Development:

James DeGerome, MD

CONSTITUENT MEMBERS:

American Association for the Study of
Liver Diseases
Alliance of Families Fighting Pancreatic Cancer
American College of Gastroenterology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Liver Foundation
American Neurogastroenterology
and Motility Society
American Pancreatic Association
American Society for
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for
Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
Association of Gastrointestinal
Motility Disorders, Inc.
Beyond Celiac
Celiac Disease Foundation
Celiac Support Association/
United States of America, Inc.
Chris4Life Colon Cancer Foundation
Global Colon Cancer Alliance
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America
Florida Gastroenterologic Society
Griffith Family Foundation
G-PACT
Hepatitis Foundation International
International Foundation for
Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Louisiana Gastroenterology Society
National Pancreas Foundation
New Jersey Gastroenterology & Endoscopy Society
New York Society For Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
North American Society for Pediatric
Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
North Carolina Society of Gastroenterology
Ohio Gastroenterology Society
Oley Foundation
Pennsylvania Society of Gastroenterology
Society of Abdominal Radiology
Society of Gastroenterology
Nurses and Associates, Inc.
South Carolina Gastroenterology Association
Texas Society for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy
United Ostomy Associations of America

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

AbbVie
Allergan, Inc.
B. Braun Medical, Inc.
Entera Health, Inc.
Janssen Pharmaceuticals Companies of Johnson & Johnson
Merck & Company
Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.
United Chemical Companies of Belgium

ADMINISTRATION

Health & Medicine Counsel of Washington
DALE P. DIRKS
HALEY PAYNE
LESIA GRIFFIN

Founder & President Emerita
Suzanne Rosenthal

October 31, 2017

Representative Hank Vaupel
Chair, House Health Policy Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

Senator Mike Shirkey
Chair, Senate Health Policy Committee
Michigan State Senate

Representative John Bizon, M.D.
Michigan House of Representatives

Re: Support for Michigan House Bill 4472

Dear Chairmen and Representative Bizon:

On behalf of patients suffering from digestive diseases and the physicians who treat them, Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC) respectfully urges you to support **HB 4427**, which includes key substitute language that will ensure strong communication between a patient's health care team and will allow physicians to have the most up-to-date access to information to help their patients.

DDNC represents more than 30 organizations concerned with digestive diseases in order to further our goal of improving the quality and accessibility of health care options for patients. Biologic medicines, including biosimilars, are expanding treatment options for patients with digestive diseases, and we are advocating for their safe arrival into the market. For the sake of our patients, it is important that the entire medical team, including physicians and pharmacists, communicate about the proper course of treatment. This bill would facilitate that communication, ensuring that our patients receive the best, most thorough care.

Because of the complexity involved with manufacturing biologic medications, there is no way to create the “generic” medications that are so common in other types of treatments. While the development of biosimilars—which are similar to their innovator biologic medication, but not exactly the same—is important for creating robust choices for patients, there are safety issues that must be addressed. The best way to address these concerns is through clear communication between prescriber’s pharmacists. HB 4472 creates a framework that will ensure that there is transparent, open communication between prescribers and pharmacists, reducing the chance of a biologic substitution causing serious side-effects.

With the first biosimilars already on the market, it is crucial that we act quickly to ensure that there are clear guidelines for prescriber and pharmacists. We strongly urge you to sign HB 4472 for the benefit of those who suffer from digestive illnesses and those who treat them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Gardiner Seim".

Lynn Gardiner Seim, MSN, RN
Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph McKibbin, MD".

Ralph McKibbin, MD
President